

Så vivádra viðs naziun Talossán!

QATOR ITRÌNS

El Khurnál Talossán del Zebäts és del Ziscuziun
Talossa's Journal of Debate and Discussion

QATOR.TALOSSA.NET

Volüm 3, Ißütâ 1

Január xviii/III

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Contributions from:

Els Zefençadéirs dal Repúblicâ Talossán

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EDITOR'S NOTE: most of these articles were originally scheduled for publication in May. Pressed for time and energy, I subcontracted production of that issue to an interested party, who sadly fell gravely ill and was not able to complete the issue. These articles have been salvaged and are being republished today for several reasons. Firstly, as historical documents; secondly, because the insights they contain are still valid; thirdly, to perhaps encourage some of their authors who have drifted into inactivity to return to active Talossanity; and fourthly, as a jumpstart to get Qator Itrins on the road again. Enjoy.

MIESTRÂ SCHIVÂ, Redactéir

editorial

A funny thing happened on the way to a new Qator Itrins....

I had absolutely no intention, when I took a break after the last issue, to let things slide for more than a year. I was in the process of moving to a different city and taking on more projects in my extra-Talossan life, but I thought I could keep up a bimonthly or at least a quarterly schedule.

Well. Is my face red.

What's happened in the year-and-a-bit since I last wrote a column like this? We have a new President and a new (and frankly better!) Seneschál. A formal agreement of friendship and co-operation has been agreed with the KINGDOM OF

Talossa – although there are questions over how long it will survive, given the volatile political climate on that side of the border.

But, sadly, in the absence of this journal applying a boot to the backside of the cultural life of the Talossan nation, things have stagnated on the being-Talossan rather than playing-politics front. No other outlet, for example, has arisen for new writing in the Talossan language. We are still waiting for the cross-border Talossan community to get up and running; sadly, here as elsewhere, culture is hostage to political developments.

Which is one of the major reasons why I resigned the office of Seneschál dal Repúblicâ. It has been brought home to me, in no uncertain terms, that Qator Itrins is absolutely vital for the cultural and intellectual development of Talossa – and my schedule had to clear to make room for it.

So let's hope that it's not another year before you see the next issue. But what will I want to have seen changed since then? I want the Republic to have developed on an all-round basis – in close co-operation with the Kingdom, as far as that's practical. I want a Talossan-language discussion board and more people than me writing Talossan-language prose and poetry. I want Wittenberg filled with discussion of art, music, food and all the other things that make life worth living and Talossa a nation rather than a political simulation. I want Talossan culture to grow from real human interaction, not just the gladiatorial games of parliamentary and Presidential politics and its associated theory-mongering. And I want Qator Itrins to be there, documenting and promoting every important bit of it.



Miestrâ Schivâ, Redactéir

dal redactéir

Qualse'cosâ comic tent paßat â irê à'iens Qator Itrins noueu...

Non tigñhovéu aucün intenziun, quând téu començat va endradâs ospréi la ißûtâ dirnalaiset, laßar qê cosâs stagnarhent dūrânt pü qê viêns âr. Eu alugñhéveu à'iensâ citâ novâ, és començéveu pü dels proxhets dîn va vidâ non-Talossân, más crevéu qê pût continuar 'n þorariü bimensúrn eða à mhius quîrtál.

Ben. Va façâ c'è roxh, ¿oi?

Qêt isch paßat dūrânt el âr-és-'n-pô descînd téu scriüt dirnalaiset 'n colüm com'acest? Noi tent 'n Prüm Citaxhiên noueu és 'n Seneschál noueu (és

vrätsmînt miglhôr!). 'N consonançâ formál dal amicitâ és del cuntravalátx isch agreedâ cün el Regipäts Talossân – ivêndo ja quesziuns övêr come lungmînt ça sŭrvivarha, zonat el climäts politicál vulcanál sŭr aceastâ sidâ dal ligñhâ Vuode.

Más, tristamînt, sânc q'acest xhurnál zona dels cops da ped àl ciöl dal vidâ culturál dal naziun Talossân, cosâs tent stagnat àl frînt da “estarê Talossân” propri qê “xhúar àl politici”. Aucün eschtivéu altreu, pêr exampál, tent luschat pêr escribînd noueu Ladîntsch. Noi atendent adüc qê si inogura la comunitâ Romançadâ toct-Talossân; tristamînt, aici come d'altêr, la culturâ isch hostaxheu às svilups politici.

Aglhêrc, qê non sarâ 'n âr da phü avînt qê si via la ißûtâ proximâ. Más qê volt-eu vidâre cambiat ospréi acest tîmp? Eu volt qê la Repúblicâ tischa developat toct-comprîsmînt – dîn cuntravalátx proxim cün el Regipäts, aßéi qê ça sarâ practicál. Eu volt vidarê 'n forûm dal discuziun Romançadâ, és xhints altreux qê mhe scriuarê dal proçâ és poesîa Ladîntsch. Eu volt qê Wittenberg sarâ piên dal discuziun övêr el îrt, el músiqueu, la eziun, és toct i cosâs altrâs qi façent la vidâ qualse'cosâ da valutâ, és qi façent Talossa 'n naziun, propi qê 'n müsaziun politicál. Eu volt qê la culturâ Talossân grŭltiçarha pêr înteraziun vräts yumán, non solamînt els gladieux dels politici parlamîntál és prŭmcitaxhiênál, és sieu þeorîaziunadâ aßociatadâ. És eu volt qê Qator Itrins sarâ là, pêr documentar és promotar toct qê en isch împîrînt.

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'N Manifesto Zefençistâ

A Defencist Manifesto

Zefençismeu, or Defencism – the ideology on which the ZRT party is founded – sees itself as the heir to the traditions which have kept Talossa strong, vibrant and proud throughout its history. At the same time, it repudiates the traditions which kept Talossa paranoid, nasty, and cultish for much of the later history of the pre-Revolutionary period. We stand in, and defend, the best traditions of the Declaration of Independence of December 1979 which created Talossa, the Revolution of June 2004 which created the modern Talossan Republic, and the “Quiet Revolution” of August 2005 which created the modern Kingdom of Talossa.

Defencism, therefore, contains the following strands:

1. Nationalism. We uphold the tradition that Talossa is a nation – defined by Perry Anderson as “an imagined community”. We see ourselves (or at least behave as if we do) as a nation of the world, but we cast no judgement on the validity of other non-sovereign entities' claims to nationhood. The

**by Miestrâ Schivâ
Founder/President,
Els Zefençadéirs dal
Repúblicâ Talossán**

Talossan nation includes all current citizens of the Kingdom and the Republic of Talossa, and some who are not currently citizens but have historically shown themselves to be Talossan. We support Talossa having the full panoply of institutions of a nation-state, insofar as they are useful or fun for a population of our size.

2. Traditionalism. Talossa is the Talossan traditions that have evolved more or less continuously since 1979. A Talossan is defined in part by being aware of the history of that tradition and continuing to work within it. This tradition is always open to change – however, too great a rupture with those traditions, and Talossa will cease to be Talossa. One vitally important tradition of the Talossan nation is *el glhep naziunál*, and Defencism strives towards the goal of *'n naziun Ladîntsch* – where all citizens would know and use at least a small amount of the Talossan language in their daily business.

3. Pretentiousness. Although the Talossan state possesses no sovereign power, behaving as if it does is an essential part of the fun of being Talossan. Pomp, rhetoric and boasting are an important part

of the Talossan tradition. However, we also see all this with a touch of irony. We repudiate that part of the Talossan tradition which honoured historical dictatorships and oppressive regimes on the grounds that their uniforms were snazzy. In this, Defencism is a *left-wing* form of Talossan nationalism.

4. Republican dirigism. This phrase attempts to define the particular way that Defencism sees the Talossan state:

a) All citizens should be equal before the law.

b) All government offices should derive their powers from a popular mandate and be regularly subject to democratic scrutiny, to the extent that this does not impede their ability to make decisions and take action.

c) The state should have real power and responsibility for the collective life of the nation, including but not limited to cultural development, settlement of disputes between citizens and relations with other nations.

d) Real power in the Talossan state should lie where the constitution and

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'N MANIFESTO ZEFENÇISTÀ - CONTINUED



A possibly forged ticket to the first ZRT congress

laws declare it to lie. We repudiate pre-Revolutionary Talossa's history of "name only" governments and committees, and a legislature which debated frivolous bills while real power lay elsewhere.

5. Unity. There is no good reason for two Talossan states to exist. This political division weakens the nation. However, the cultural gap between the two states is currently too wide for political unity to be a realistic goal in the foreseeable future. The Defencists support:

a) as a first priority, rebuilding the cultural unity of the Talossan nation;

b) eventual political unity as only coming after a

vast consensus of both States, under a new Constitution drafted by a convention with equal representation by both States.

6. Diversity. We repudiate the historical tradition of "cultural monolithism" in Talossa. Every one of good will who pledges loyalty to the Constitution and Laws of Talossa should be welcome as a citizen. Although we defend Talossan cultural traditions as we understand them, we recognize that the democratic will of the people trumps tradition. Cultural distinctiveness should be encouraged in Talossa's provinces – in fact, that is the main reason why they should continue to exist.

7. Focus outwards. At all those times when Talossa has become inward-looking and static, it has become a nasty place to live. Talossa

is best when we are continually accepting new Talossans, and engaging in cultural exchanges with non-Talossans of good will. We are poorer for pretending that we exist in a vacuum.

The ZRT is therefore a cultural movement as well as a political party, which seeks to actively build Talossan culture and deepen understanding of our history, while at the same time competing democratically for positions within the Talossan State and seeking to improve our constitution and laws. We believe that our Seven Points above embody the positive side of the tradition which has kept Talossa alive for almost three decades.

Visit the ZRT website at:
<http://web.telialia.com/~u18120780/ZRT/>

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SELLING DREAMS

How to market a country

by Antônio Lixhità
Chair, Union for
Talossan Progress

For those of you who do not know me, I do a style of marketing and promotion for a living. Amongst other responsibilities, I recruit and market to potential students and their parents for an institution of higher education. It isn't like selling used cars or new televisions. You can't just slash your prices, improve your quality, lower your costs and make a profit.

Convincing kids to come to your university (and for some of our disadvantaged students, convincing them to go to college at all) is a task that requires them to buy into a lifestyle choice, and you must promote the unique character, traditions and advantages of your institution, all the while reassuring the potential student that your institution is friendly, fun and worth their time.

In short, we sell dreams; dreams of a better life, of a special place, of belonging to a unique fellowship and community. I believe that there are great similarities between marketing universities and marketing the Republic.

In the Republic Prime Minister's opening address to the current Chamber of Deputies, Miestrà Schivâ focused on the need to market and expand the republic. I agree. In fact last November one of the first proposals of the Union for Talossa Progress (UTP) before it became a political party was the need to market the Republic. We welcome the Prime Minister's efforts in this area.

The most basic elements of any marketing program are:

1. To whom are you marketing?
2. What can you give them that others cannot?

As to whom we should be marketing I will crassly quote myself from the UTP web site:

"It seems that those most likely to join the



republic would be reasonably well educated, computer savvy individuals with more than a passing interest in politics. . . . So, where do literate, political technophiles congregate? I think it would be safe to assume that they pool at colleges and universities."

This not to say we should only recruit at college and universities, but rather that is where our first official efforts should target. After all, with limited resources we should move into a target rich environment and university communities have a wealth of the open-minded, obsessive, creative people we need for the Republic. My only mistake was in focusing on the political.

We should use this summer as a planning period for a major, coordinated marketing program to coincide with the start of the university school year in North America focusing on campuses and their larger communities throughout the world.

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SELLING DREAMS - CONTINUED

I believe that a promotional committee should be set up immediately, with representatives from the Executive, the Immigration Ministry and chaired by a person with marketing experience to provide a set of specific recommendations to the Executive no later than July 8, 2006. Here are just a few of my personal recommendations which allows individual citizens and the government as a whole to participate in promoting the Republic of Talossa.

Citizen Level

Asking a Likely Friend – Many of us have done this and it is a low – tech, but very effective, not to mention affordable. Not only ask a likely person, but help them work through the necessary process.

Downloadable Flyer – We should supply a downloadable pdf flyer for any citizen to use in libraries, bookstores, coffee shops, etc. to educate people about the Republic and to encourage them to log on and look around.

My Talossan Life – We could include a blog from an active, friendly Talossan citizen as an insight to Talossan

relationship and events.

Social Clubs – Start and participate in a Social Club. Whether you want to discuss science fiction, or books, a recent movie, undiscovered music or your concerns over web site standards, active social clubs, with discussion boards and online events can give the non or semi political a real reason to join the republic.

Institutional Level

Comprehensive Media and Social Clubs – The American media is not limited to Time, Newsweek and CNN. There is also Entertainment Weekly, Sports Illustrated, South Park, Battlestar Galactica and the New Yorker. Nor should our media be limited to news, politics and language development. Many of our citizens write blogs on technology, the arts, pop culture, etc. Some of us have sought to create music and video web sites. All of these choices should be available on the media section of the web site to provide a wide variety of Talossan publications. Also, citizens who wish to start a social club should have the freedom to start a message board on the Witt, so long as it remains active. This will show that even if your interests does not reside in politics or language construction you can still have a place in Talossa.

Promotional Video – A well-done, humorous, but respectful video could certainly be an asset, especially if it is funny enough to be picked up by the viral video web pages.

A Complete Website

– All pages on the web site should be complete. Incomplete pages send a message of either decay or organizational shallowness. If it is not important enough to be completed, then it shouldn't be an empty page on the web site, though a blank Ministry of Information page does at least provide some ironic humor.

MySpace Account – Seems straight forward to me. One of the world's most popular networking sites should have an "embassy" from the Republic, along with an Ambassador-at-large to maintain the site.

Republic of Talossa Wikipedia Entry – Recently cited as possibly the "best encyclopedia ever" by Time Magazine, I think it an absolute necessity that the Republic have its own entry on Wikipedia. I think that the people who read the Wikipedia obsessively might be our kind of people.

A favorite science fiction novel of my youth observed that societies are either growing or dying, implying that even comfortable stasis is in the long run a death sentence for a society. I think it is time that we make our choice.

Visit the website of the Union for Talossan Progress at
<http://www.talossanprogress.org>

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për Üc Tärfâ del Movamáintsch Repúblícán për Peculiarismeu

Talossa'n grült Naziun'st, más isch dîn ün danxhéir parç qê sieu svilúp piertga l'empientâ initziál qi urixhineva cün la Revoluziun.

Talossa is a Great Nation, but she's in great danger because her growth is losing the initial push that originated with the Revolution. From the 1st of June 2004 to the 14th of April 2005 the Annual Rate of Growth (calculated by the I.N.S. "William H. Cooper" assuming 1 new citizen per month as unity) was 92% , while from the 14th of April 2005 to the same date on 2006 had diminished to 66% . To be frank, it's not exciting data, because it's the natural number of people that can be attracted by their own initiative to a micronation like we are - certainly one of the best and more serious. This situation warns us that if we don't urgently plan action at the same time on many fronts, there's the risk that the Republic will collapse for lack of new citizens (and consequently new resources) with an ARG dramatically low.

La Seneschál Schivâ promised a plan to help the growth since the 8th of September 2005, but in la Camera on the 22nd of April she admitted that this plan, after seven months, is far from ready. I believe that Talossa can no wait more, and a concrete plan or at least guidelines for a policy that will help the growth of our Republic should be drafted and realised.

Foreign Affairs

To achieve the result of guaranteeing the Republic's growth, the collaboration and the efforts of every Citaxhien are necessary, as well as a constructive and peaceful collaboration between Majority and Opposition. The Republic should in fact focus its attention and act simultaneously on many fronts, that could be collected in three major areas: afâes útphätseshti, afâes înphätseshti and



marketátx és baxhët.

The Republic has abandoned the isolationalistic policy of the Old Kingdom (also with the dismissal of the useless Dual Citizenship Ban), and this certainly has helped us and has augmented our notoriety. But we have only grazed the surface: the Micronational World is an enormous reservoir of potential Citizens, especially those disappointed by too many

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ATXUTAR EL SVILUP DAL REPÚBLICÂ - CONTINUED

simulations of wars, authoritarian systems and a widespread “not serious” attitude. We should focus on attracting those people who are looking for a serious Micronation by publicising our policies and system.

Foreign Affairs are fundamental, because even if a form of marketing is carried out, to be well known in the ambient of Micronationalism is the best way to attract those who have experience in Micronations but are (or beginning to be) disappointed by the majority of them. Our Foreign Policy should be oriented to: extend relations (following the doctrine “if you exist, you exist”, without spending time in senseless discussions about the need or not of “diplomatic recognition”) with all the serious Micronations which are interested in a constructive dialogue. In my humble opinion, Nova Roma will be a perfect example of this. We seek to gain Visibility and Notoriety inside the Micronational Ambience, as well as quickly creating the Ephemeral State Treaty Organization; and be the house and the destination of the “élite” of Micronationalists, those who look for an High Quality and Serious Micronation.

On the Home Affairs side, the Republic should make the Immigration process easier (which fortunately in itself is quite perfect seen

from the point of view of the target market); make the Access and the Discovering of Talossa easier for everyone, and develop those peculiarities of Talossa that can attract new Citizens. This doesn't mean that our State should sell its ideals and modify its entire structure in order to be “tempting”: the Republic must operate those changes only if they are compatible with her aims.

Politics and Language

And in this reasoning, there's the demonstration of the strict relation between Home and Foreign Affairs



Flag of Nova Roma (www.novaroma.org)

guidelines: Talossa could attract persons who look for Serious and Stable Micronations only emphasizing her principles and characteristics. The two most important of these are certainly politics and its unique culture, especially the most precious treasure: el ghlep.

Improving and developing el ghlep, in order to attract those who are interested in Constructed Languages, must be a priority. The Minister of Culture should create in this community a more prestigious place for el ghlep - for example, presenting it in a better way in the places where the ConLangers habitually talk and exchange opinions: Langmaker.com, ConLang mailing list etc. Because el ghlep has great potential and is one of

the richer conlangs in terms of size of Vocabulary and completeness of the Grammar. But what we need is a stronger community inside the Republic devoted to the issue of developing, and using on a major scale el ghlep.

Expanding participation in political life (without compromising the essence of our Representative Democracy) in order to attract those who are interested in having fun doing Politics (the big majority of Micronationalists), might be another way to improve the “appeal” of the Republic. Making a parallel with a Micronation similar to us concerning the Naturalization Process (in fact, stricter than our own, requiring a 90 day probation period) and the seriousness of its institutions and its citizens, Nova Roma, we can learn something.

Certainly the aspect of Living and Recreating Ancient Rome is a powerful incentive that is not present in our Republic, but there every citizen has a role in the legislative process that is fuller than in Talossa. Even if in Nova Roma the political aspect is not the only fundamental, the participation of every citizen is fundamental. And their population is circa 900. In our Republic having fun doing politics is, together with the Cultural pursuits, the most attractive and developed

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factor: but if this fun effectively is reduced on the federal level to only a vote cast once every six months and, apart from Cézembre, politics at the provincial level is on hiatus; part of the fun is lost. Talossa does not need to change its Representative Democracy to one based on Direct Democracy, but certainly we need to allow in some way a more active participation of present and future Citizens.

Marketing

Making the parts of the website related to Immigration available also in other languages than English is a “must”: if we offer information in 9 languages, instead of only 1, our area of potential immigrants will be significantly enlarged. Another good example could be a page on Wikipedia shared with the Kingdom, a concise “Talossa for Beginners/New Citizens Guide”; and to spur people to move from “Friends of the Republic” status to Citaxhiens, we might introduce randomly periods of a few days in which those people could gain access to an “easy citizenship”. For example, as they have already an account on Witt, they are supposed to be known to the Citizenry; so in this special period they could become prospectives by simply and directly requesting a vote on their citizenship, without being obliged to fulfill the others requirements.

Talking about “real marketing campaigns”, a simple and effective act of marketing that doesn't require great expenses, is the use of Google AdWords. AdWords are advertising that Google display in their search page and on the sites which display a box called “ads provided by Google” (that is Google AdSense). Each ad is displayed following the options decided by the user, the most common are keywords (for example: micronation, conlang, languages, politics, country) and language. Costs are not high, because basically this service is invoiced on CPC (Cost per Click) system, that means that we will have to pay Google everytime someone clicks on the link in our ads. But the CPC is defined by us, and we can also set up a maximum expense per month.

To collect this money, there are many solutions, receiving donations, using Google AdSense, etc, but the most secure way will be the creation of annual taxes for citizens. They might be collected by the Republic basing the rates on a fix percentage of the GDP per year of the country where the citizen lives, in this way we will guarantee the equality of payments and problems related to the exchange rates (that would benefit some citizens) will be avoided. Taxes will also help the Republic to resolve a big problem perfectly explained in the Seneschál's words (27th of March): « we need to find some sustainable way to keep our national webspace in operation. At the moment the deal is that the President of the Republic organises this with the Database Administrator, and currently both Chris and M-P are keeping that running out of the goodness of their hearts and wallets. Not a long-term sustainable option. At some stage we will at least need to start charging

some (very small) level of “taxation” (or membership fee, for the less derivative among us) to pay for domain registrations, shiny ID cards, etc. ».

However as Talossa is not, and will not be a money-making scheme, a possible surplus might be in part conserved in order to be able to face unexpected expenses, and part donated to humanitarian no-profit Organizations (like “Médecins Sans Frontières” or “Emergency”) or to adopt a child.

Conclusion

To conclude, we shall all together collaborate to reach the ambitious but necessary objective of making the Republic definitely and positively growing. I want to express again a thought I've outlined in la Camera last month quoting 6 words. The first should be well known by every citizen, « Aude Aliquid Dignum », because if Talossa wants to grow, she must dare, as she dared the 1st of July 2004 and the 14th of April 2005; the last three are by an Italian poet: « Memento Audere Semper » (Remember always to dare), because If we want Talossa to grow, we should always remember these three words.

(painstakingly edited into Standard English by Miestrà Schivà)

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"THE BEGINNINGS OF A CULTURAL SPRING"

As the second President of the Republic of Talossa, on day one of my term and day one of the third year of true democracy and freedom in our nationette, I'm somehow surprised to find myself in this august position. I joined the Republic in October 2004, and it's not my intention to bore you with a review of my Talossan career. Anyhow this is the moment to annotate that the Republic of Talossa is a land of opportunities for those who join the country and actively make themselves at home in our society.

I found the web pages of the forerunner of the Republic, the Kingdom of Talossa that we overcame, in 1996. As much as the discovery of kindred whimsical souls out there in the internet literally knocked me off my feet, I couldn't make up my mind to join the Talossa of King Ben. This hasn't been insight or foresight or instinct, it was just because I never understood why people who would soon live in the year 2000 could adore monarchy, a concept that was already quaint in the year 1000, after the achievements of the ancient Greeks and the Roman Republic. That's why I incidentally, unrelatedly and innocently joined the Free Commonwealth of Penguinia, and thus a little bit later on I had to find out I didn't escape the gravity of Planet Talossa.

No doubt, Talossa owed and owes the founder R. Ben Madison respect for many reasons. I don't want to fish for applause by flogging this somehow legendary eccentric monarch of yore now. Anyway it's well known that he turned into a nag who was offending many people, and when someone (who's name is incidentally Tric'hard Fôrfesc) informed me about a Revolution in Talossa, I saw that instead of the formerly omnipresent and almighty, increasingly cantankerous King Ben someone who signed his decrees as



highlights from the inaugural address of D. N. Vercáriâ, second President of the Talossan Republic, Calondâ Gün 2006/xxvii/III

"Humblest Man on Earth" had assumed the position at the helm of the nation. I don't know why, but this gesture lit an initial spark of desire for participation in the brand-new revolutionary Republic in my heart.

Times have changed, the so-called "Intertalossan Cold War" is over now, and I hope that I, as the first President of an era that isn't brand-new any more, will also be able to do the right things in the right time, as my lucky forerunners did. I hope that coming generations of Talossans will never forget,

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what these men, together with the people of their time, did for the rise of our Republic.

This is supposed to become a State of the Republic speech, so I better start talking in the present tense now, before I'll talk about the agenda of my presidency.

To say it in one sentence, today we can proudly say, that the Republic is in good shape. The time of extensive lawsmithing is over, our legislation isn't calling for big revisions. In many micronations this would be the end; no excessive legislative struggles, no fun, no societal life, end of the story. Not so in Talossa. After the excitements of the founding phase we made ourselves at home in a normality that does not embrace apathy.

I can see the beginning of a cultural spring, for instance a return to a fulfilling activity that has always been one asset of the Talossan culture: the fosterage and development of a certain constructed language that attracted many people who otherwise possibly wouldn't have been interested in joining a micronation like Talossa. And there are many other things that Talossans from all over the world are doing together, not only visibly on the various discussion forums (I know, this is not the correct plural, but my spell checker keeps me from using it, would you believe!) of the Republic. For example, your Seneschál and your second President recently cooperated in home recording of music, one living in New Zealand and the other in Germany.

So basically there's nothing to complain about. But there is one burning problem. We have a solid group of an active citizenry, but still, even though in average micronational dimensions we are a remarkably big nation, we're still too few to be on the safe side of not being endangered by running short of personnel.

Presently we wouldn't have enough active citizens to sit in a federal parliament of two Talossas. We don't even have enough citizens to get the full scale bi-cameral Parliament of our Republic up and running, let alone that most of our provinces still are

nothing but beautiful names and hazy ideas. Our political parties, pylons of the political system, are permanently close to collapsing because of a lack of manpower.

This shouldn't discourage us. Actually, after all what we achieved, and with all the daily pleasure that Talossa is giving us, there is no need to drown in desperation. It's just that there will still be a long way to go until our Talossa will be perfect. You know, this is good news, because perfection is sterile and maybe Godly and as we are mere humans, we need a destination to head for. The best goal will always lie beyond the horizon.

During the long run of my term I'm planning to be an active President... damn, I suppose I'll fire the ghostwriter who wrote this – can you hear me, you're fired, Mr. Obvious.

This is a democratic Talossa, and I'm still a member of the MRP, a party which always wanted to make Talossa even more democratic. Feel free to storm your President's office to talk to the man, straight to his face. This shouldn't be a sacrilege in a nation of less than 30 citizens.

Back to the issue of being too few Talossans for running the full-scale constitutional program with a bi-cameral Parliament and living, breathing, vibrating provinces, I'm quite sure that we will be able to develop wonderful programs to attract all the best micronationalists that we can find.

In my humble opinion, the simplest thing to get there is to keep our tiny little boat of a tiny Republic afloat, in good friendship, tolerance for each other, creativity, activity, in other words, just by being ourselves. This will be the best advertisement that I can think of. We'll just have to tell the world that we exist.

More later, when this day of celebration and remembering will be over. Dear fellow citizens, enjoy this 1st day of June, 2006, the beginning of the third year of our particular independence. There's still a lot of work to be done, but all work and no fun makes people dull boys and girls. Let's celebrate Independence Day now.

Long live our Republic - and then some days!

special issue: the future of the republic

THE JOURNEY TO TALOSSA

by Txec Danihél dal Már



It was a dark and stormy night 8 or 9 years ago now when I got my first hand-me-down computer. Excitedly I plugged the box into the wall found out how to plug the phone line into it and loaded AOL v. 2.3 into it and away I went down the dark and perfidious paths of cyber-surfdom.

That very first night I went looking for people who also shared my strange hobby of creating fictional nations and worlds. I had engaged in this hobby since I was a child and had read an article about other people that had what I considered to be the oddest hobby in the world on the internet. That night I did not find people that shared this hobby but I did find a curious little place called the Free Commonwealth of Penguinia.

Needing something to do I decided 'what the heck?' and I applied for citizenship. I was voted in a few days (maybe weeks) later. I found a bizarre magical place where everyone thought they were a poet or a film author. We had a man who thought he was a bear. We had a conservative in a land of liberals, a person who thought he was going nuts even though he was just growing up and we even had some people who refused to specify whether they were men or women. I was in heaven. Truly all the best freaks were there and

I fit in someplace finally.

Very shortly after my citizenship was approved Miestrà, as Lawspeaker, called for elections and a fellow Penguinian asked me to run for Althing, the legislative body of Penguinia. Much to my surprise and his chagrin I was elected.

I am proud of my involvement in Penguinia. I have times where I miss it terribly. We had a willingness to try some out of the ordinary kind of things that have been tried in few other places. We learned about the single transferable vote, especially as it relates to the expansion of democracy. I had never heard of this before my involvement there.

Consensus was another. We learned from our Penguinia experience that not having an order of how consensus should work was detrimental to progress. So in Polyphony we worked to create an order of operation.

From the ashes of Penguinia arose Polyphony, a group of which I was a founding member. Poly was to operate with some high standards to effect some real world change. I am not sure if we accomplished what we set out in all earnestness to do. But we did do some things of which we should be proud. Even though Polyphony was not a micronation in any real sense of the word I believe that one of the biggest reasons Polyphony crumbled and died was because it lack a cultural identity of it's own. We were all, with a few noted exceptions, former Penguinians with grand ideas and when those grand ideas became boring nothing was there to support the community.

By contrast in the Penguinian

experience the rage against King Ben subsided by the Exodees and we had our own little niche carved out in the world. We had e-movies and e-tv shows. We had P-tung, the national language and a couple of us created Pengogaelg which never took off. Our webmaster had maps and maps and more maps and a radio station. There were stories and jokes, self-help boards, and Deet and I had own little haven called San Pedro de Nada where anybody drunk enough would find a Polar Bear tanning in the tropics, a penguin with a redneck and a cowboy hat and an elephant tootin 'La Isla Bonita.' Guess where I spent a lot of time.

Truthfully the politics were fun to a point but the biggest drawing card for me was P-tung, our language. We got all wrapped up in politics and other things and we spent little time working on the language but a nation with it's own language was truly a neat idea to me. My main interest in Talossa is the language.

...well that and my ages old friends and the prospect of making some new ones.

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